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WASHINGTON

JANE DOE SUES TO GET SPY JOB BACK

BY GUY DARST

A mysterious federal lawsuit, Jane Doe vs. "A Certain Unidentified Agency," has turned out to be a case of spy vs. spies.

The anonymous Jane Doe filed suit in U.S. District Court in Washington against the CIA and several of its top officials to get her spy job back.

The suit also seeks the removal of allegedly inaccurate information from her personnel file, and unspecified damages for what she claims is harassment and sidetracking of her spy career after she blew the whistle on a former supervisor's handling of money.

The plaintiff's suit was first filed in May, naming only "A Certain Unidentified Agency." It sought a court order permitting her to tell her lawyers who she worked for, what she had been doing, and the nature of her grievance.

The CIA later permitted her to disclose information necessary to her case to her lawyers.

The original suit was withdrawn in August, and Jane Doe told the court she had "made sufficient progress" in resolving her grievance within the agency. But a new suit was filed Friday, apparently indicating that those negotiations broke down.

The government's response to the May suit said some of the information involved was "extremely sensitive and has far-reaching implications for the national security."

According to her suit, Jane Doe is a 1970 graduate in Russian studies of the University of Oregon who started at the CIA as a clerk-typist. She said she was promoted to professional status in 1975 and trained as a spy - a "covert professional officer."

In assignments from 1976 to January 1981, including two overseas, she received "excellent evaluations and increases in compensation" and handled sensitive assignments, she said in the suit.

The suit says that at her last assignment, in July 1981, she was told by "various sources" that "her former supervisor at that overseas location may have been misappropriating official funds and may have been involved in other improprieties." The suit did not further identify the sources.

"One of these sources indicated that she (the source) was prepared to terminate a 10-year relationship with the agency because she suspected that funds owed to her had been misappropriated," the complaint said.

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